Spotlight Teacher: Sister Agnes

Sister Agnes, a new teacher at Catholic has an interesting background as to how she got to where she is today, and why she chose Charlotte Catholic.

Sister grew up in a family of 13. She attended Catholic school her whole life, even through college. Sister said, “I was convinced I had received the call to religious life since fourth grade.”

As soon as she had graduated high school, she wanted to go straight into the religious life; however her parents told her to wait, and out of obedience, she did. She said “I wanted to start right away, but obedience came first, and I considered it a blessing from God, and it worked out alright for me”.

Her parents were concerned because many nuns were leaving the convent because of the changes enacted by the Second Vatican Council. She believes that there was a serious misunderstanding of the purpose of the message behind the Council. She said, “It offered a better translation and was more vernacular, and could help deepen one’s understanding of the liturgy”.

She went on to become a Sister, and finished in 1986. She celebrated her 25 anniversary this past June and received a papal blessing. Her vocation had brought her to not only the religious life but also to teach. “I love Jesus and his church” she said.

She finds teaching here rewarding and fulfilling. She said, “It presents a challenge because the faith is lived out here in a way in which the bishop’s of the Church would be very proud. It’s a challenge because every time you teach a class, you have to examine your conscience and I find that the students really attempt to live the fullness of the gospel.”

She loves how mass is offered every day, but is disappointed that it’s not well attended as it should be, and she believes that some students don’t realize the privilege they have for this, and they take advantage of it. She said “The numbers make it difficult to make Charlotte Catholic do what it’s supposed to, but the staff and students have the facility to do it well, and I’m impressed”

Her calling took an unexpected turn and she was hit with all these surprises when Bishop Peter Jugis asked her to join the Diocese of Charlotte. She wasn’t expecting the faith to be as great as it is here and expected smaller churches. “I’m delighted to be a registered parishioner at the largest Catholic Church in the United States. Faith is big here. There is a large Catholic presence in Charlotte as well as young and vibrant priests, whereas other dioceses are struggling with the amount of priests”.

She is currently working on her second year advanced studies at Liverpool Hap University and is studying the universal church and the worldly church. She sees many interesting things here at catholic such as demographics and also teaches freshman religion. A seemingly boring religious person actually has some great background and much knowledge about the catholic faith. She has a very calming and relaxing voice and she would be happy to answer any questions about the faith.